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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A snowboard binding for fastening a boot to a snowboard comprising:
a support structure,
a heel element attached to the support structure,
an instep element attached to the support structure for at least partially covering a top side of the boot,
tension cables for attaching the instep element to the support structure, and
a tensioning device for tightening and loosening the tension cables;
said instep element being sized and shaped for extending at least from a toe region of the boot to an instep region of the boot, the instep element being attached in the toe region and in the instep region to the support structure by the tension cables,
said tensioning device being attached to the support structure independent of the heel element,
said tensioning device having a rotatable winding spindle on which the tension cables can be wound and a locking device for locking the winding spindle,
said locking device being a pivoting lever with several hooks on which a loop of the tension cables can be secured.

2. (Original) A snowboard binding as set forth in claim 1 wherein the tension cables are attached to one side edge of the instep element.

Claims 3-5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently amended) A snowboard binding for fastening a boot to a snowboard comprising:
a support structure,

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a heel element attached to the support structure,
an instep element attached to the support structure for at least partially covering a top side of the boot,
tension cables for attaching the instep element to the support structure, and
a tensioning device for tightening and loosening the tension cables;
said instep element being sized and shaped for extending at least from a toe region of the boot to an instep region of the boot, the instep element being attached in the toe region and in the instep region to the support structure by the tension cables;
said tensioning device being attached on the instep element independent of the heel element;
said tensioning device having a rotatable winding spindle on which the tension cable can be wound and a locking device for locking the winding spindle;
said locking device being a pivoting lever with several hooks on which a loop of the tension cables can be secured.

7. (Original) A snowboard binding as set forth in claim 6 wherein the tension cables is attached to one side edge of the instep element.

Claims 8-10. Cancelled.